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EXAMINER

YE, LIN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2612

DATE MAILED: 06/04/2003

7

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/189,010

Applicant(s)

TOKUNAGA, TATSUYUKI

Examiner

Lin Ye

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 4,5,15-17 and 23-58 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 6-14 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 and 12 filed on 3/24/03 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Objections***

2. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities:

Referring to claim 1, line 6, "element" should change to -- elements--

Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3, 6-14, 18-20 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki U.S. Patent 5,497,215 in view of Heller et al. U.S. Patent 6,396,539.

Referring to claim 1, the Iwasaki reference discloses in Figure 2, a photoelectric conversion device comprising: photoelectric conversion means (photometry part 10) including a plurality of photoelectric conversion elements (For example, photometry areas 10a and 10b) which is constructed by a plurality of pixels on a semiconductor substrate (See

Art Unit: 2612

Col. 3, lines 15-24); and a plurality of storage means (first accumulation control part 16 and second accumulation control part 17), each for storing predetermined control information for controlling corresponding photoelectric conversion element (See Col. 3, lines 40-48).

However, the Iwasaki reference does not explicitly states the plurality of storage means and photoelectric conversion means are formed on the same semiconductor substrate (single chip).

The Heller reference discloses in Figure 2, an integrated circuit imaging device 10 formed from a CMOS process on a single chip having an image sensor array (12), a memory (14), a CPU (controller unit 16) and a interface circuit (A/D) including in the controller unit (See Col 3, lines 54-67). The Heller reference is an evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time to see more advantages for integrating sensor, CPU and memory into a single chip, because it will significantly reduce the device size and making the device more portable. For that reason, it would have been obvious to see said the plurality of storage means and photoelectric conversion means are formed on the same semiconductor substrate disclosed by Iwasaki.

Referring to claim 2, the Iwasaki reference disclose control means for controlling charge accumulation of said photoelectric conversion means (10a and 10b) on the basis of control information stored in said storage means (16 and 17) (See Col. 3, lines 50-55).

Referring to claim 3, the Iwasaki reference disclose wherein said photoelectric conversion means further includes monitor (brightness calculator 12) means for monitoring an accumulated charge state in said photoelectric conversion element, and said control means includes selection means for selecting an arbitrary one of a plurality of pieces of status

Art Unit: 2612

information (such as date and time and sets an initial accumulation time) on the basis of the control information stored in said storage means (16 and 17), and comparison means for comparing an output from said monitor means with the status information selected by said selection means, and controls the charge accumulation of said photoelectric conversion means on the basis of comparison result of said comparison means as shown in Figures 10-12.

Referring to claim 6, the Iwasaki reference discloses a plurality of photoelectric conversion means equivalent to said photoelectric conversion means (10a and 10b).

Referring to claim 7, the Iwasaki reference discloses wherein said monitor means monitors and outputs information based on a maximum accumulated charge amount of said photoelectric conversion element as shown in Figure 12 (See Col. 47-49).

Referring to claim 8, the Iwasaki reference discloses wherein said control means stores the status information selected by said selection means in said storage means as the control information as shown in Figure 11.

Referring to claim 9, the Iwasaki and Heller references disclose all subject matter as discussed with respect to same comment as with claim 1.

Referring to claim 10, the Iwasaki reference discloses wherein said control means includes determination means for determining predetermined information on the basis of said output from said monitor means, and stores the information determined by said determination means in said storage means as the control information as shown in Figure 10.

Referring to claim 11, the Iwasaki and Heller references disclose all subject matter as discussed with respect to same comment as with claim 10.

Referring to claim 12, the Iwasaki and Heller references disclose all subject matter as discussed with respected to same comment as with claim 1.

Referring to claim 13, the Iwasaki and Heller references disclose all subject matter as discussed with respected to same comment as with claim 3.

Referring to claim 14, the Iwasaki and Heller references disclose all subject matter as discussed with respected to same comment as with claims 6 and 9.

Referring to claim 18, the Iwasaki and Heller references disclose all subject matter as discussed with respected to same comment as with claim 7.

Referring to claim 19, the Iwasaki and Heller references disclose all subject matter as discussed with respected to same comment as with claim 8.

Referring to claim 20, the Iwasaki and Heller references disclose all subject matter as discussed with respected to same comment as with claim 10.

Referring to claim 22, the Iwasaki discloses the photometry system which computer-readably stores the processing steps of a control method as shown in Figure 10.

5. Claim 21 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki U.S. Patent 5,497,215 in view of Heller et al. U.S. Patent 6,396,539 and Akashi et al. U.S. Patent 5,615,399.

Referring to claim 21, the Iwasaki and Heller references disclose all subject matter as discussed in respected claim 1, except the references do not explicitly states a focus detection device including the photoelectric conversion device.

Art Unit: 2612

The Akashi reference disclose in Figure 1, the focus detecting apparatus including a photoelectric conversion device (area sensor 201). The Akashi reference is an evidence that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time to see more advantages for a focus detecting apparatus using an area sensor as an AF sensor, because the focus detecting device can be capable of accomplishing focus detection automatically and accurately. For that reason, it would have been obvious to see said the focus detection device including the photoelectric conversion device disclosed by Iwasaki.

### *Conclusion*

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Art Unit: 2612

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Lin Ye** whose telephone number is **(703) 305-3250**. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy R Garber can be reached on (703) 305-4929.

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks


Washington, DC. 20231

Or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal drive,  
Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

  
WENDY R. GARBER  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600

Lin Ye  
May 29, 2003